

PROGRESS AT PANAMA

II—CHANGES MR. TAFT WILL SEE.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

During his present visit to the Isthmus President-elect Taft will note many evidences of the wonderful progress toward the ultimate completion of the canal. In the nine months that have passed since he last called on the canal diggers they have excavated 25,000,000 cubic yards of material. Unless there is an unexpected mishap in the present month, it will cost an enormous total of 30,000,000 cubic yards in the ten months. The bigness of this excavation does not appear until it is reduced to everyday terms. The average city house is probably twenty-one feet wide, thirty-three feet deep. The excavation at Panama in ten months would make a hole in the earth big enough to bury 35,000 such houses.

To illustrate in another way the immensity of the work, if the excavations were uniform across the Isthmus for the entire fifty miles from deep water in the Atlantic to deep water in the Pacific, the result would be a ditch eighteen feet deep and 14 feet wide throughout the entire distance. If it were possible to maintain this tremendous pace until the end, it would be only about twenty-six months from March 1 until the last shovelful of dirt was turned.

Of course, no one expects that such a remarkable pace can be kept up to the end. It is the wonder of the entire engineering world that they have been able to maintain it up to the present time. No such sustained effort has ever been put forth in the entire history of the world. Yet it has been done under surroundings of unusual difficulty—during the ten months perhaps an average of three feet of water has fallen at every point on the Isthmus, at times coming in downpours of half a foot a day. Whatever Mr. Taft may see, he will at least not fail to see the biggest hole that has ever dug in ten months. During the twelve months of the calendar year just past the excavations amounted to more than 30,000,000 cubic yards. If they can keep the same pace through the present year, there will be only 30,000,000 cubic yards of material left to be excavated when New Year's Day next rolls around.

Mr. Taft will find the engineers on the Isthmus turning their attention largely to the Gatun dam. This is the big job they have the excavation problem solved, and that the construction of the locks and dams is the only problem that demands serious consideration. As to the locks and dams at the Pacific side, they offer no serious difficulties. As to the proportions, they look like child's play beside the Gatun dam and locks. While there is but little more than 60,000 cubic yards of material left to be taken out of the canal, there are 32,000,000 cubic yards of dirt to be dumped up into the Gatun dam. Add to this the tremendous amount of water that must be pumped up to hold this dirt in suspension until it is deposited on the dam, and then the immensity of the work of building Gatun dam will appear. The dam will contain some 21,000,000 cubic yards of dirt.

A whole army of suction dredges will be assigned to the work of pumping up the material. These will have 20-inch centrifugal pumps, and hour after hour, day after day, and month after month, working in day and night shifts, they will press forward the work of rearing this artificial mountain across a river valley. Perhaps 60 per cent of the material they pump up will be water. Of the remaining 40 per cent engineer Saville figures that only 60 per cent will remain on the dam. On this basis nearly much material will have to be thrown through those pumps as has been taken from the canal proper from the day the French turned the first shovelful of dirt down to the present time. When Mr. Taft was last on the Isthmus all the plans for Gatun dam were tentative. The experiments have now been made, and the work is ready to proceed.

The amount of supplies that has been used on the Isthmus in the past ten months is beyond the conception of most men. Think of the damage a carload of dynamite has often wrought; how it has sometimes almost annihilated small towns. Then fancy 500 carloads of it being used in one brief ten-month period. That is the way they have been using it down on the Isthmus since Mr. Taft was last there. They have used 500,000 blasting caps and everything else in proportion.

When he last looked over the big ditch, Mr. Taft was wonderfully impressed with the sanitary situation in the Canal Zone. It was regarded as the climax of all the arguments in favor of the merits of preventive medicine. The record of each year surpasses the previous one. Last year the death rate among the negroes in the canal employ was nearly forty-six out of every thousand members of the force. This year it was less than twenty out of every thousand. Jamaica, from which island comes a large percentage of the negroes at work on the canal, is one of the most healthful islands within the tropics; yet the death rate there is fully a third more than the death rate among the negroes on the Isthmus. The death rate among the whites on the canal is about one-half less than that among those residing in the National Capital itself.

The success that has attended the working of the jury system on the Isthmus is its establishment eleven months ago, will deeply interest the judicial side of Mr. Taft. It is the first time in the history of the world that a jury system has been established on the continent of South America, or in any English-speaking country. Prior to its establishment, men were condemned to death without benefit of jury trial. This was repugnant to the responsible American officials. A condemned man appealed to Gov. Blackburn. She has done an amount of good in five years and spent her income for the good of others as freely as she used to spend it for herself.

Mr. Taft, on reaching the Zone, found the Panama Railroad force in their cars in the work of relocating the road. The excavations for the canal can proceed during the rainy season now as well as during the four dry months, so thoroughly has the force been organized. But on the other hand, little can be done toward building embankments when as much as six inches of water falls in a single day. It happens that most of the relocation work is on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus, and there more than ten feet

of rain water falls during a single wet season. They got ready while it was raining, and are now making the effort of their lives to accomplish things during the four months of dry weather. The creation of the Gatun Lake will put the present tracks of the railroad under eight to five feet of water, so they are skirting the side of the future lake with a half embankment, and making regular stair-steps of dumping tracks to facilitate the handling of the trains.

The present-day visitor to the Isthmus can sit on the veranda of the administration office at Gatun and look down on the seven miles of the sea-level canal. There is no water in the sea-level canal. There is no water in the sea-level canal. There is no water in the sea-level canal.

ELKS REPEAT SUCCESS.

Minstrel Show Given at Hall Draws Well on Second Night.

From the opening overture to the close of the programme, the minstrel show repeated by the Washington Elks, at their hall last night, 919 H street, was a pronounced success.

The programme was divided into four sections and each number was heartily applauded. Songs of Dixie, dialogues, and comic sketches kept the audience in good humor for more than three hours. A section of the United States Marine Band furnished music and the last part of the programme was interspersed with solos by its members.

At the close of the performance a dance was given and refreshments served.

HARVARD MEN MEET HERE

Enthusiasts at Washington Club Last Evening.

Frank K. Bigelow, of Weather Bureau, Tells of Work of Government Reclamation Service.

An enthusiastic meeting of the Washington Harvard Club was held last night at the University Club.

Frank K. Bigelow, of the Weather Bureau, made an address on "Snow fall and evaporation in the Rocky Mountain district." He referred to the work of the government reclamation service, and recounted instances of the practical results of its efforts.

Mr. Bigelow gave a popular explanation of the methods of the government engineers in arriving at a forecast of conditions from observations continuing over a considerable period of time.

As a result of this scientific forecast, he said, the government was constructing dams and inaugurating projects of reclamation that are far less liable to destruction from abnormal conditions than were those of a previous period.

Perival Hall, president of the club, introduced the speaker and conducted the business meeting that preceded his address. It was voted to supply pictures of scenes about Harvard University to certain high schools of the city.

Pickering Dodge, treasurer of the club, presented a paper on "The Reclamation of the River." He was a guest at the banquet of the club, to be held March 30 at the Raleigh Hotel.

Refreshments were served on the conclusion of the meeting.

WILL VISIT CITY.

Hitchock's Campaign Secretary Wins Merited Reward.

Theodore L. Weed, of Connecticut, has been appointed chief clerk of the Department of Commerce and Labor, a place formerly held by Frank H. Hitchock, who will enter the Taft Cabinet as Postmaster General.

Mr. Weed was private secretary to Chairman Hitchock during the recent national campaign. He acted in a like capacity for Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, before and since the campaign. Mr. Weed, who is thirty-two years old, is one of the youngest men ever selected for the chief clerkship of an executive department.

DAVID BISPHAM.

David Bispham plans a recital in Washington at an early date. On his present tour, which is under the direction of London Charlton, Bispham is scoring a series of triumphs. Never has the singer been in better voice, his wonderful powers being now in their zenith. Aside from his rich, magnetic voice, Bispham's temperament arouses his audience to a white heat of enthusiasm. He is an artist.

Machinists in Session.

The national executive board of the International Association of Machinists is holding its quarterly session in the McGinnis Building. It is expected that important matters affecting the machinists will be taken up to-day. The members of the board are James O'Connor, international president, Washington; Hugh Doran, Chicago; E. L. Tucker, Washington; James Reynolds, Cleveland; A. E. Ireland, Pittsburgh; G. W. Cook, Bremerton, Wash.; George Preston, secretary and treasurer.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

For the information of its army of policy holders, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, of New York, has issued a statement of its standing at the end of the year 1908.

The magnitude of the company's operations is astounding. For example, the mind can scarcely grasp the magnitude of the statement that the total amount of outstanding policies at the end of the year was \$1,811,890,882, but we can easily grasp the no less astonishing fact that during the business hours of every day in the year an average of 6,240 new policies were issued and paid for. Every day—taking the average for the year—44 persons received from the company the full value in cash of policies which had been carried for their benefit. Every day the company paid out to its policy holders and added to the policy paying fund (reserve fund) more than \$165,000. The value of property owned and acquired by the Metropolitan Life during 1908 increased at the rate of \$127,000 per day. A policy holder of the company dies every six minutes, and the company pays during business hours a death claim on the average every sixty-two seconds.

The company owns one hundred million dollars worth of United States bonds, city bonds, and railroad bonds and stocks; more than ninety millions of dollars in real estate; and more than two millions of real estate, and much other tangible property, all held as assets of the company. The company has a net worth of \$1,811,890,882. The company has a net worth of \$1,811,890,882. The company has a net worth of \$1,811,890,882.

THE THEATRE

THE BELASCO.

"The Hour of the Family" At 8:15 and 8:30. A play which depends for its appeal on its realism; its verity to actual life in the slums of New York. An unusual play, admirably staged and beautifully acted.

"The Chorus Lady" At 8:15 and 8:30. Miss Rose Stahl in the biggest success of her career. A play that is the central character of which suits the star, Mr. Otis Skinner, better than any he has ever had. A good entertainment.

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SENATORS QUIZZ STEEL MAGNATE

Continued from Page Four.

sorption of the stock by the United States Steel Company, any of these men, and which of them, would have been embarrassed if it had gone through?

Mr. Schley—"That is a question it would be very difficult to answer."

Senator Overman—"These men are some of the richest in the country, are they not?"

Mr. Schley—"Yes; some of them are."

Senator Overman—"Do you know whether O. H. Payne or Leonard Hanna would have been embarrassed by a call made on them by the banks, and Mr. Schley answered in the negative. As they had paid for their stock, it was not necessary to call on them."

Senator Overman—"I do not suppose Mr. Schley would have been."

Mr. Schley—"Mr. Schley was trying to borrow money on his stock."

The price paid for the Tennessee stock by the so-called syndicate was 110, and it was sold at par.

Senator Overman—"So you were selling this stock during the panic at par?"

Mr. Schley—"Yes, sir."

Senator Overman—"Your effort in trying to sell it was not especially to stem any crisis that was in the market, was it?"

Mr. Schley—"That was the only object I had, to be exactly accurate about it."

Overman Seeks Names.

Mr. Overman pressed Mr. Schley for the names of men holding a majority of the stock who would have been financially embarrassed if the sale had not been made.

Mr. Schley said he could not answer. Senator Overman—"If you cannot answer that question, then it was not your purpose in securing this deal to save any of these particular individuals from financial embarrassment?"

Mr. Schley—"No, I have not said so. I said Moore and Schley were borrowing money to a large amount and the calls were being made upon them."

Senator Overman—"You were not saying what would have happened to Moore and Schley if these calls had continued. It got to a dangerous point."

Senator Overman—"It was stated that it was to save somebody from financial embarrassment, or someone from being embarrassed."

Mr. Schley said he had gone to Lewis Cass Lydard to begin the negotiations for selling the Tennessee Company's stock, and Judge Gary and Mr. Frick came into the arrangement. It was necessary not only to save the credit of Moore and Schley, which was being attacked, but for other reasons, to bring about the transfer of stock to the Steel Corporation. The entire situation was revealed when the transfer was made. The rumor that Moore and Schley were holding the stock was erroneous, but the pressure was there against them.

Of the transfer itself, Mr. Schley said it was made finally by paying steel bonds to the Tennessee stockholders on the basis of par in cash. The bonds, he believed, were priced at 84, the then quotation, which gave the stockholders \$1,554,315 in bonds for 100 shares of Tennessee stock. This reduced the cost to 107 for 110.

About five of the sixteen majority stockholders had borrowed from Moore and Schley on their stock. Senator Culbertson asked if it was not a fact that the majority holders merely consented to the sale because they were in the syndicate and it was in the interest of a majority of the group.

"I can't read their minds," said Mr. Schley. "If you would they were all willing, under the pressure, to do this. John W. Gates got back to the United States just before the deal was consummated and assented to it as a holder of individual stock."

Mr. Schley said he had never talked to J. P. Morgan about the deal, only to Mr. Frick and Judge Gary, and knew nothing until after it occurred about getting President Roosevelt's assent to the merger.

ARMY BILL PASSED.

Attempt Made to Limit Prices Paid for Powder.

Just before the military bill was passed in the House yesterday, an effort was made to place a limitation upon the prices paid by the army for all powder, except that used in small arms.

A motion was made by Representative Fitzgerald, of New York, that the bill be recommitted to the Military Committee, with instructions to report an amendment prescribing that the government should not pay to exceed 64 cents a pound for powder, instead of 67 cents, as at present.

This was aimed at the powder trust, which was the subject of more or less debate in the House during the consideration of the military bill. The House refused to follow the lead of Mr. Fitzgerald, and instead of recommending the bill, passed it.

The measure carries an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the maintenance of the war establishment for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next, an increase of about \$400,000 over the amount made available for the purpose of the current fiscal year.

DIRECTORS WILL MEET.

Chamber of Commerce to Consider Legislation.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce will be held at the headquarters of F street this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. Secretary Grant said yesterday that fifteen new names would be voted upon for membership, and that important matters relating to District legislation in Congress would come up for consideration.

Edward White, a well-known writer on financial matters, contributes to the current issue of the "Bankers Magazine" a complimentary article on the work of the Washington Chamber of Commerce. In the course of the article he discusses the relation which trade and industry bear to the former development of the Capital, reaching the conclusion that no live city can grow to the stature of Washington and maintain itself on retail trade and finance alone. He predicts a large and splendid growth of manufacture and trade for the Capital in future years.

He says the Chamber of Commerce has caught the movement at its beginning and that this organization will naturally increase in influence and prestige as it acquires age and wisdom.

CONGRESS BRIEFS.

The Senate yesterday passed the House bill to prevent the importation or use of opium, except for medical purposes. The bill will now go to the President.

The President sent to the Senate yesterday the nomination of John Lord O'Brien, of New York, to be United States attorney for the Western district of New York.

SKANSONS & CO

THE BUSY CORNER

Spring suits

choice, \$18.00

—That's a good deal less than they're worth. They ought to go faster than coal in a February cold wave. The value is there. And, remember—new Spring Styles and new Spring Fabrics.

These suits are made from sample pieces and odd lengths of materials that we purchased in a job lot at greatly reduced figures.

We sent the materials to one of our best makers and had them made up in the advance styles.

There are fancy worsteds, mannish serges, and novelty imported cloths in staple colors. These suits are all man-tailored in a manner notably high class. They are carefully cut and finished, and all are lined with guaranteed satin. \$18.00 is much too low for these suits. We'll be unable in season to duplicate either the styles or the materials at this low price. If you buy now you'll not only secure substantial savings in money, but you'll be prepared for spring, which comes generally without much warning.

IN THE SOCIAL WORLD

Continued from Page Five.

others, several numbers by Leschitzky, whose pupil she was. Mrs. James Henry Cox, a dramatic contralto, will sing for the first time in Washington. The musical is for the benefit of the loan fund by which girls are annually assisted to a college education. Great efforts are being made to make it a success both socially and financially.

Mrs. F. E. Cunningham, of 1353 Girard street northwest, will be at home to-day from 3 to 6 o'clock.

Mrs. Jonathan Bourne, wife of Senator Bourne, will not receive on Thursday, February 4.

The students' ball, under the auspices of the board of lady managers, for the benefit of the George Washington University Hospital, will be held Friday evening, February 5, at the New Willard. The names of the receiving committee are: Mrs. Hennen Jennings, Mrs. Cleveland Perkins, Mrs. Charles E. Munroe, Mrs. Arthur Addison, Mrs. Charles W. Todd, Mrs. J. H. Crawford, chairman of the ball committee. Mr. Arthur Addison has kindly consented to act as chairman of the floor committee, under whose able management the success of the ball is assured.

Mrs. Lynn Orville de Lashmutt has sent out invitations for the marriage of her daughter, Mary Whitney, to Mr. Roger Moore Stuart, Tuesday evening, February 23, at 7:30 o'clock, at Christ Church, Georgetown.

Former Senator and Mrs. Charles J. Faulkner, of West Virginia, are at the New Willard.

Miss Ruth Bliss, daughter of Mrs. George Bliss, and a debutante of this season, entertained at luncheon yesterday in honor of her house guest, Miss Blanchard, of South Orange, N. J. Her guests were Baroness Marie von Paumgarten, Miss Katherine Weeks, Miss Elizabeth Howry, Miss Vera Downing, Miss Alice Shepard, Miss Polly Mason, Miss Amylita, Miss Miss Mary Chew, Miss Harriet Hatch, Miss Winifred Davis, and Miss Zenobia Cambrul, of Italy.

The gifted children who gave "Jack the Giant Killer" the fairy play with a musical setting by Harry Wheaton Howland last week for the benefit of the Italian earthquake sufferers, repeated yesterday in the Columbia Theater. The same cast appeared and was enthusiastically received by the audience. Little Miss Helen Hays Brown made a pronounced hit again in the impersonation of the "Gibber Bathing Girl" and the "Nell Brink Girl."

Mrs. Michael J. Colbert was hostess at a tea yesterday afternoon in honor of Miss Ida Wynne, the young daughter of the consul general to London. Mr. Robert J. Wynne, assisting the hostess were Mrs. Gaines, wife of Representative Joseph H. Gaines; Mrs. J. J. Richardson, Mrs. John J. Hamilton, Mrs. George Ray, the Baroness Marie von Paumgarten, Miss Marie Ray, the Misses Wright, Miss Margaret Brooks, Miss Julia Howe, and Miss Sullivan. The hostess wore an imported gown of white satin made empire, with handsome embroidery and lace. Her young guest of honor wore pale blue gauze spangled with gold.

The District of Columbia Chapter, United Daughters of 1812, have issued invitations for the unveiling ceremonies of the memorial tablet in recognition of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at the Octagon House, Wednesday, February 17, at 4 o'clock.

LONG EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Tillman Speaks for an Hour in Opposing Negro's Confirmation.

The Senate in executive session for more than four hours yesterday afternoon. A variety of subjects were discussed.

Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, devoted an hour to opposing the confirmation of W. D. Crum, who has been nominated by the President as collector of the port at Charleston, S. C.

Senator Money spoke at length on the race question in the South. Mr. Tillman in his insistence upon a quorum ran counter to the ruling of the last session which was invoked against Senator La Follette to kill his filibustering anti-race bill.

While Mr. Overman was pleading with his colleagues Senator Aldrich practiced a more effective measure of persuasion. The Senator from Rhode Island pointed out that the omnibus claims bill carrying many Southern war claims, which had passed both Houses, was still in conference.

Any demonstration by the Democrats for dilatory effect would only lessen the brief time that now remains of the session, and impair the chances of getting the omnibus bill through. The threat of a filibuster thereupon subsided.

Democratic leaders were saying last night that the Brownsville bill would be permitted to come to a vote in accordance with the agreement, and the nomination of W. D.